

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY®

May 12, 2011

Dear Representative Latta,

As you well know, Americans today are struggling with skyrocketing energy prices that take a larger-and-larger share of their paychecks. Most visible to American consumers, of course, are gasoline prices, which hit a nationwide average of \$3.96 this week – close to record highs. On behalf of more than 1.7 million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I write to offer support for your recently introduced Consumer Relief for Pain at the Pump Act, H.R. 1777. The bill offers smart solutions to the current domestic energy supply-crunch imposed by the Obama administration's restrictive regulatory policies.

Your bill advances a number of important measures AFP has long supported. It builds upon the House's recent progress in ending the presidential "permatorium" on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf, opening this region to further development of its rich oil and natural gas resources. It provides an environmentally-sound approach to opening the Arctic Coastal Plain (ANWR) for exploration and recovery of its estimated 8 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil. It repeals the Department of the Interior's "wild lands policy" – an order issued in December by DOI Secretary Ken Salazar that indefinitely restricts oil and natural gas development on hundreds of thousands of acres, particularly in Western states – which Utah Governor Gary Herbert has called "bad policy, bad for Utah, and bad for the entire nation." It eases bureaucratic burdens on energy producers and their investors by streamlining the process for approving permits and leases and establishing a judicial review process to limit frivolous environmental litigation. And finally, it grants regulatory relief by clarify that Congress never intended EPA the use the Clean Air Act (or a range of other statutes) to regulate greenhouse gases.

Together or separately, these policies will ease administrative and regulatory burdens that increase the cost of recovering our nation's abundant, affordable sources of energy. With unemployment high, the economy still sputtering, and households facing more uncertainty than ever, now is not the time for grand government plans imposing "green" energy technologies on the nation, especially when these policies simply end up costing taxpayers, consumers, and businesses dearly. The first step in finding solutions for today's energy needs is getting government out of the way of energy investors and innovators. This bill goes a long way towards that goal.

Americans for Prosperity is proud to support your legislation and your efforts to ease the pain American consumers are currently feeling at the pump. I urge your colleagues to support H.R. 1777, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



James Valvo
Director of Government Affairs
Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen-leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and intrusiveness of government is the best way to promote individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens to support restraining state and federal government growth and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP is more than 1.7 million activists strong, with activists in all 50 states. AFP has 31 state chapters and affiliates. More than 85,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial contribution to AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org

Americans for Prosperity does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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